THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL,

WILMINGTON, N. C., MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1857.

☞ It is stated that Hon. Wm. L. Marcy, late Secretary of State, intends visiting Europe during the coming Summer. The hard-headed old diplomatist will make quite a sensation, and afford a striking contrast to the tinselled and fanciful intriguers of the old world, among whom routine and formalities have, to a great extent, usurped the place of strong, manly thought.

Something may be gained by the European system of making diplomacy a life profession, in which advancement is accorded by seniority, as men in the army work up from simple cadets, to the position of Brigadier or Major Generals. So in Europe, the Hon. Tom Noddy becomes at eighteen an *attache* without pay, to some mission of small importance, say to one of the minor German Courts—then, perhaps, he is next sent to Naples, or some other Italian Court, to learn the intricacies of etiquette, court costume, and general love-making. Further on in life he becomes Secretary of Legation somewhere, and, in the event of his principal dying, or retiring, he becomes principal himself, and is known as the representative of his or her majesty at the court of his or her other majesty. He has risen by regular gradation—is a trained diplomatist—perfectly up in Court etiquette—is never guilty of a solecism in language, manners, or coat-tails; but for all his training he is at last only Tom Noddy, although he may, in the meantime, have become a lord—he knows the world only as a theatre for petty intrigues, and thinks that there is no world worth knowing outside of the little circle in which he revolves, and within which he, and those like him, count for something.

But, when difficulties of a really threatening character arise, even in routine-governed Europe, resort is had to the services of men who have acquired reputation and standing on other grounds than the knowledge of mere forms and usages. The leading statesmen of their respective countries are sent to conferences, like those of Paris or Vienna, superseding the diplomatic *resident*, when anything serious is to be done.

The system of our Government has been to observe, as a general rule, the course to which European Governments are forced to resort upon all important emergencies, and to appoint, as ministers to important Courts, or place at the head of our foreign relations, as Secretaries of State, men of mark and *prestige* and influence, to whose strong judgment the final adjustment of difficult questions must eventually be committed. There is a power about men like Cass and Buchanan and Marcy and Webster and Everett, the want of which cannot be compensated by the polite bows or fancy ribbons and orders upon which regularly trained diplomacy plumes itself.

☞ A Washington correspondent of the Baltimore *Sun* thinks that the policy of Lord Palmerston aims at the eventual conquest of the Southern provinces of China, in furtherance of schemes which have far less reference to direct political power than to ideas of future commercial supremacy. England chafes under her forced dependence upon Brazil and Cuba and the United States for the great staples of her trade and manufactures. Abolition England cannot risk a rupture with the producers of slave grown cotton or of slave grown tropical productions. The writer thinks that she aims at obtaining a foothold in Southern China, the greatest Sugar and Cotton region in the world, and the greatest producer of these articles—that thus she hopes to make herself independent of the United States and strike a blow at her most dreaded commercial rival.

The theory, we think, is plausible, but no more.—Southern China *does* produce a great deal of Sugar and Cotton, but exports none—the surface of land devoted to the growth of these staples turns out no more than is needed for home consumption by the teeming millions of an empire that embraces within the limits of its eighteen provinces nearly half the human race; and, crowded as the country is closely as population presses upon, if it does not overrun, the means of subsistence, no larger space can be taken for the growth of staples for export.

We hardly think that Lord Palmerston can have any such delusive notion, or if he has, that he will find it in the realzation to be anything more than a delusion.

Mr. Wright's Oration.

As the most satisfactory answer to repeated enquiries with regard to the Oration delivered by Joshua G. Wright, Esq., on the occasion of the second celebration of the anniversary of Moore's Creek, we take the liberty of presenting the following correspondence:—

WILMINGTON, April 20th, 1857.

DEAR SIR:—The undersigned respectfully request for publication, a copy of the eloquent and interesting address delivered by you upon the occasion of the late celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.

In making this request, the undersigned but express the unanimous wish of all who had the pleasure of hearing you, and the great desire of numbers who were not so fortunate. And adding their own personal solicitations that you will consent to the publication.

They are very respectfully,
your ob't serv't,
WM. S. ASHE,
JOHN L. HOLMES,
F. J. HILL,
GEORGE DAVIS. } Com.

J. G. WRIGHT, Esq.

WILMINGTON, April 21st, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—Your note soliciting a copy of my recent Address for publication, has been received. I very cheerfully comply with your request, and only regret that the Address was not more worthy of the occasion on which it was delivered.

With my thanks for the opinion you express of its merits, and with a grateful appreciation of your kindness,
I am very truly,
your ob't. serv't.
JOSHUA G. WRIGHT.

Messrs. Wm. S. Ashe, John L. Holmes, F. J. Hill, Geo. Davis, Committee.

We may add that the manuscript is now in hand, and the pamphlet copy of the speech will shortly be issued, printed on good paper and in neat style.

PITTSBORO', N. C., April 22d, 1857.

MESSRS. FULTON & PRICE—

Gents:—Knowing that the people of your city feel a deep interest in everything connected with the improvement of the Cape Fear and Deep Rivers, I was surprised to find, on reading the Journal of the 18th, that you had given the Hon. Hugh Waddell's eloquent and satisfactory speech so small a space in its columns. I write this because, when I left Wilmington, I handed Mr. Waddell a letter, signed by a number of your citizens, requesting him to furnish a copy of his speech for publication, and I fear, as Mr Waddell is too apt to depreciate his own efforts, your notice, slight as it was, may prevent his furnishing the copy as desired. A speech so replete with information with regard to the mineral resources of our State, and so well calculated to stimulate our State pride, should be read and treasured by her citizens, and its valuable suggestions carried out.

Yours very respectfully H. A. L.

We publish the above letter, because we believe it expresses a desire felt here, and throughout the State generally, especially that portion of it more immediately connected with, and interested in the mineral region of Deep River.

We would have taken great pleasure in giving a fuller synopsis of Mr. Waddell's remarks, at the time, but for the impossibility of doing anything like justice, by any mere synopsis to the vast amount of facts and calculations presented by the speaker. We need not add that nothing would give us greater pleasure than to present the speech referred to, in full, if Mr. Waddell should deem proper to accede to the request made, and furnish a copy for that purpose.

STRAWBERRIES.—The Editor of the Charleston *Courier* has been presented with some Strawberries, the first of the season. They were grown on Baum's Farm, near Charleston.

☞ The changing character and direction of the attacks made upon the policy of the Democratic party, are well calculated, as no doubt they are designed, to blind the eyes even of those comparatively on their guard, to the identity of the *object* kept in view by the parties or factions urging on these attacks.—That object is the complete overthrow of the Democratic party, which, strong in its principles and its organization, has so far successfully resisted these attacks and come out from each conflict either refined by trial or flushed with victory.

With the tactics of the last few years most people are familiar. The opposition at the North was anti-Slavery, anti Catholic and anti-Foreigner. At the South it sought to conciliate the Northern anti-slavery feeling by denouncing the repeal of the Missouri Compromise as "reckless and unwise" while politico religious emissaries tramposed the States with books full of horrible pictures of persecutions, massacres and other misdeeds, said to have been committed by the Pope of Rome or Arch-Bishop Hughes, while citizens of foreign birth were represented as grasping the power of the government out of the hands of "the Sons of the Soil," in face of the fact that no office could be shown held by any man of foreign birth and none or next to none sought by them.

Well, all this, with all the machinery and organization with which it was connected, and by which it was at first rapidly advanced, failed to drive or draw the Democratic party from the impregnable position which it had assumed. It refused to be drawn from this position—its ranks, though thinned for a time, were still unbroken, and, when the contest came, the wisdom of this policy was confirmed by the result. In that result the Democracy reaped the victorious fruits of a firm and unflinching adherence to principle and organization. They could not be driven from their place—they would not be *drawn*.

In the wild turmoil of the last years, the question of the public lands was little spoken of; it was but a mere incident—a sort of outside affair—*now* it is made the primary consideration. After the failure of the attempt to storm the citadel of Democracy, the policy now is to promote divisions among its defenders—to draw aside portions of the Democratic forces, and thus, if possible, to obtain victory after having excited division.

The money raised for the support of the United States federal government is drawn from two sources, duties upon imports, and the proceeds of the sales of public lands. The last source is immeasurably the largest and most reliable. The monies so raised are expended for objects under the jurisdiction of certain departments, to wit: State, Treasury, War, Navy, Interior, &c. Of all these departments, the Interior is among the most important, especially that bureau known as the General Land Office, because vast sums of money coming into the Treasury are expended for the acquisition, survey, defence, &c., of the public lands, to guard which from the incursions of hostile Indians, more than half the military force of the United States is constantly employed, at a cost of millions a year, while the expenses of surveys, Indian agencies, gross sums paid for the extinction of titles, &c, is a very heavy charge upon the Treasury. The average amount annually expended by the general government, for the past six years, for Indian purposes, has been about $2,625,-932, while the interest on the Louisiana purchase, and the different purchases from Mexico, would amount to about as much. In fact these inevitable expenditures, to say nothing of the cost of the troops employed for the defence of the territories in which these lands are situated, would consume every sixpence of the average receipts from the sales of public lands, and indeed leave their management, if not a burden, certainly no profit to the treasury which has to keep up the troops in them and for their defence at an expense of not less than eight million dollars a year. Where then is the nett proceeds to come from, the distribution of which is proposed by the opposition as a panacea for all the ills that afflict the States? There are no nett proceeds.

It is proposed to distribute profits when there are no profits, or to distribute gross proceeds, leaving the deficiency thus created in the means of meeting the necessary disbursements to be, made up by means of taxes levied upon and taken out of the pockets of the very distributees—the very people who are fooled into the notion that they are to be greatly benefitted. Suppose that a party should get up and demand dividends from the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company!

Now, suppose that six millions a year by way of distribution, were taken out of the Treasury of the United States and handed over to the States, and N. Carolina got one thirty-first part thereof, that is something under two hundred thousand dollars, how would she stand. To meet the six millions thus taken out of the U. States Treasury, a corresponding amount must be collected, and how? By taxes on imports—How does that operate? These duties are imposed on certain articles of general consumption, mainly manufactured goods, of which the domestic productions stands at least in the proportion of six to one to the imports of the same articles. The duty on the one part would be paid into the United States Treasury, on the sixth parts it would pass from the pockets of the agricultural consumers of North Carolina into the pockets of the manufacturing producers of New England and the North generally, so that for less than two hundred thousand donation the people of North Carolina would have to pay back in taxes on the articles used by them, at least a million and a quarter, one part into the treasury of the Union, six parts into the pockets of the protected manufacturers.

These are matters to be thought over and reflected upon, but they are only a part. There are other cognate matters to be treated of, but which the lack of time and space forces us to omit to-day.

Trouble in New York.

Mayor Wood has caused an injunction to be issued upon the new Police Commissioners appointed by the Governor in accordance with the recent act of the Legislature. There was great excitement on the occasion. The Mayor pronounced the law unconstitutional, and charged the police to obey only the present Commissioners.

☞ We understand that the following gentlemen have been appointed directors on the part of the State in the Cape Fear and Deep River Navigation Company: Hon. Abraham Rencher and Dr. R. K. Smith of Chatham, and N. N. Nixon, Esq., of New Hanover.

Fire in Washington, N. C.

A friend writes us from Washington, N. C., under date of the 22d inst., as follows:

EDITORS JOURNAL:—A fire broke out this morning in the roof of Mr. John Long's store, on Main street. The Neptune and Ocean Engines were soon on the ground, playing two streams each, and, assisted by John Myers & Son's Engine, soon drowned out the fire, which was confined to the roof. The Neptune Fire Company used their new Hook and Ladder Truck for the first time. Mr. Long is insured.

Yours, &c., CITIZEN.

☞ The jury in the case of Scipio, a slave, from Columbus, tried for the murder of John, another slave, returned a verdict yesterday afternoon of manslaughter.

The Court this morning commenced the trial of the case of the Sailor, committed for pushing another overboard from a vessel in the stream.

Daily Journal of the 25th inst.

ENORMOUS.—On Saturday afternoon a small boy brought into our sanctum a basket of Oysters in the shell. The basket was a large one and full, but we are ashamed to say how few it contained, for how large those in it were. At any rate they were the largest Oysters we ever saw. We thought about our earlier reading in Goldsmith's Animated Nature, and that mighty bird whose apochryphal egg "was a meal for twenty four men." The small boy said "Mass Dick sen 'em," from which we were led to infer that they came from Mr. Richard Burnett's Oyster Saloon. Not exactly the last roses of Summer, but among the last Oysters of Winter. Oysters are an "institution," if not a "beverage"—they reconcile us to the absence of flowers, for what flower possesses a flavour and an aroma like unto a good bi-valve? The man that don't like Oysters, has no music in his soul—is not a man of good *taste*, has no bowels of compassion, and very indifferent bowels of any kind.

☞ If the Fayetteville *Observer* will reflect a little, it will find many precedents to justify the use, by us, of the phrase about "fighting a peaceful fight in peace and personal harmony." No phrase is more common than for people to say that they "agree to disagree"—which is just as much of a contradiction, in appearance, as "fighting in peace" can be. In fact, we might go on for a long time, backing ourselves up by quotations from all manner of authors, but we prefer to tell the truth, which is, that we intended the expression to be a sort of good-humored play upon words—all joke in expression—all earnestness in meaning. We recollect indistinctly the story to which the *Observer* refers, about the bill "to enable the free and independent citizens of North Carolina to fight their battles in peace." Let the *Observer* for once forget its cares about the Western Road, and "spread itself" to "norate" all it knows about the evil to which it refers. It will do it good.

HAWK'S HISTORY OF NORTH CAROLINA.—We understand that Mr. H. W. Horn, agent for this work in Wilmington, has arrived with copies of the first volume, which subscribers can obtain by calling at Mr. Whitaker's book store, where persons desirous of subscribing will find a list.

☞ Thursday was Mr. Buchanan's birth-day, upon which he completed his 66th year, having been born in 1791.

☞ The jury in the case of Mr. Robbins, put on trial yesterday, on a charge of manslaughter, brought in a verdict of "not guilty."

Daily Journal of the 24th inst.

Democratic Meeting in Lenoir.

At a meeting of a portion of the Democrats of Lenoir county, in the Court House in Kinston, on Tuesday, the 14th April, according to public notice: On motion, Joseph R. Croome, Esq., as called to the Chair, and James M. Wooten, appointed Secretary.

The object of the meeting having been explained by the Chair, on motion of Gen. Jas. W. Cox, a committee was appointed to report resolutions for the action of the meeting. The committee consisted of the following gentlemen: Allen W. Wooten, John C. Wooten, Dr. Thos. Woodley, Jas. Jones, Wm. Sutton, Col. Jas. W. Morris, Samuel W. Howard and Elijah Lotin, who, after a short retirement, returned the following preamble and resolutions, which were read and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, It has been suggested to hold a district convention, for the purpose of nominating a candidate of the Democratic Republican party, to represent this second district in the next Congress of the United States: Therefore

Resolved, That this meeting, representing the Democracy of Lenoir, approve of the said convention, with a view to the more perfect organization of the party, to secure harmonious action and final success in the ensuing congressional campaign, and we cordially invite our political brethren of the other counties of this district to meet us, through their delegates, in a convention to be held in Newbern, on the second Thursday of June next.

Resolved, That having implicit confidence in the wisdom and patriotism of said convention, that its nominee will be both worthy and capable to represent this district in the next National Legislature, we pledge our honest and zealous support to the candidate that may be presented for our suffrages.

Resolved, That, without intending to forestall the free and unbiassed action of said convention, or to prejudice the claims of any one of the several worthy names that may be brought forward for the consideration of that body; yet, however, we feel it to be our duty to express our full and candid preference in favor of our late most worthy Representative, Hon. Thomas Ruffin, and heartily recommend his re-nomination.

Resolved, That the cheerful and unanimous thanks of our party and of all good patriots, are eminently due, and are hereby tendered, to the Hon. Thomas Ruffin, for his vigilant, efficient and patriotic services in the discharge of his various duties as our late representative in Congress, in defence of the constitutional rights of the States and of the people against the intolerant and proscriptive policy of Know Nothingism on the one hand, and the fiendish designs and abominable acts of *abolition republicanism* on the other.

Resolved, That the Democratic Republican party is the only national, union and constitutional party of the country; the party that is opposed by know-nothingism, black republicanism, abolitionism, and all the various isms of the land, all allied together, in demonism, and to this great party alone, must all good people and patriots of the country rely for the preservation of this glorious Union, and State sovereignty and the perpetuity of the civil and religious rights of the people.

Resolved, That in the election and elevation to office, of President and Vice President of the United States, of those experienced statesmen, Hon. James Buchanan of Pa. and Hon. John C. Breckenridge of Ky., we recognize a wise, well timed and super interposition of a kind, protecting Providence, over the welfare and stability of this great and glorious nation. The admirable inaugural address of the President and the able cabinet of constitutional advisers which he has called to his aid, are guarantees that the ship of State will be ably and skilfully managed, to the honor and glory of the country.

Resolved, That the chairman appoint fifty delegates to represent this county in the proposed district convention, and the following were named, viz: Maj. Allen W. Wooten, Nathan Whitfield, Willis Pipkin, George Jones, Henry N. Croom, Samuel M. Croom, William Sutton, J. Samuel Davis, C. L. Davis, R. E. Davis, Jos. Leary, Blackledge Harper, James Nunn, James Herring, Whitfield Grady, James Jones, Elijah P. Loftin, A. W. Taylor, William G. Taylor, Chas. Gray, John C. Wooten, Samuel W. Howard, John Rhem, Wm. H. West, James M. Wooten, Gen. Jas. W. Cox, Col. James W. Morris, Henry F. Bond, Dr. Leroy Chappell, Wm. Fields, Dr. Thomas Woodley, Joseph Tilghman, N. Hunter, Wm. Howard, Wilson Tilghman, Warren Bell, Haywood Jones, Richard F. Bright, Simon W. Bright, Alfred Moore, Alexander Wilson, James M. King, Thomas H. Dawson, Noah Rouse, Thomas Rouse, Council Wooten, Richard L. Wooten, Hardy Sutton, S. Ivey Sutton, Alex. Hill, Thos. Hill, Jesse H. Rouse, and John W. Becton.

On motion, the chair was added, and that all good and true democrats of this county, who may be in Newbern at the time of the convention be considered as delegates to the same.

Mr. James B. Averitt, of Newbern, being present, and called upon, entertained the meeting in a few eloquent remarks in advocacy of the principles and policy of the party.

Ordered, that the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Goldsboro' Tribune and Newbern Union. Raleigh Standard, Tarboro' Southerner and Wilmington Journal, will please copy.

The unanimous thanks of the meeting were tendered to Mr. Averitt for his entertaining address, and to the officers of the meeting for their kind services.

On motion, the meeting adjourned.

JOS. R. CROOM, Chairman.

JAS. M. WOOTEN, Secretary.

Death of Lieut. Gardner.

AUGUSTA, April 23.—Lieut. Gardner, of the United States navy, died suddenly while riding in his carriage yesterday.

Frosty weather still continues here.

From the South-Side Democrat.

Distribution Considered Financially.

Conclusive as is the argument against distribution, drawn from a strict construction of the federal constitution, the absurdity of the scheme is even more glaring when the test of figures is applied, than its illegality when judged by the compact of the States. In the former aspect the subject has been so frequently and fully treated as to leave little to desire; but as the financial folly of the scheme has not been so frequently exposed, we shall submit a few considerations on the subject, drawn from an examination of the national balance sheet.

The advocates of distribution are fond of dazzling the minds of their hearers and readers with a magnificent account of the *twelve hundred millions of acres of public lands* owned by the Federal Government and ready to fall into the hands of the States, if they would only hearken to their wooing, and afford their patriotism an opportunity of devoting itself to the service of the confederacy. A division of the sum into parts proportionable to the federal population of the various States, and then reduced into the enticing form of dollars and cents, forms a glorious substratum for an infinity of balderdash and "Buncombe," and serves sometimes to entrap the unweary. Let us try the case by figures.

We will, for the sake of the argument, grant, what is far from being the fact, that every foot of this immense domain is susceptible of such a disposition.—We will concede that whether these acres were derived by purchase from foreign States, by treaties with foreign States, by conquest, by the extinguishment of Indian title or by the cessation, conditional or unconditional, of States of this Union—however derived, we will agree that every foot of them is disposable in the way desired by the distributionists.—Nay more; we shall not only admit that there is no objection to such disposition, based upon the particular mode of acquisition, but will further concede, for the moment, that every barrier in the constitution be swept away, and will suppose that an express stipulation appeared on the face of that instrument authorizing the precise measure as advocated now in Virginia. And, granting this, we contend that every consideration of prudence would call upon us not only to forego the exercise of such power, but to protest against any action to that end by Congress.

In the first place, it is simply ridiculous to speak of this vast domain as though it could be at once converted into money, and the proceeds be thus made immediately available—the disposable funds of the whole earth would not suffice for the purchase. Nor can it be presumed that the individual States would be able to bring the lands more speedily into market, or find purchasers more readily than the general government. Having no standing armies, no military and scientific organizations, none of these powerful auxiliaries, supplied by the bureaus of War and the Interior, to say nothing of the drawbacks that would result from conflict of title, it is not to be presumed that they would be able to sell the land more rapidly than Congress. Let us take, then, the account of the government for a single year, and that one of extraordinary briskness in the land market, and examine into the profits of the transaction.

The official returns for the last fiscal year exhibit the sales of nine millions two hundred and twenty-seven thousand eight hundred and seventy eight (9,227,878) acres of land, at a net price of eight millions eight hundred and twenty-one thousand four hundred and fourteen dollars ($8,821,414.) Now, if every cent of this fund was distributed among the States, the share of Virginia would be four hundred and ninety thousand and seventy-eight dollars (490,-078)—a sum equal to about *one eighth of one per centum on the assessed value of the landed property alone in Virginia.*

This is the immense fund which is to build the railroads and annihilate the taxes of Virginia!

Contemptible, however, as this appears, it is absolutely enormous in comparison with the utmost limit of the real returns that could possibly accoue to the State from such a distribution, as a moment's reflection will determine. So far we have examine only the *credit* side of the account; let us now look to the debts, and discover, if we can, what this sum of $8,-821, 41,4 is chargeable with. Upon examining the returns of the department of the Interior, we find this large sum debited at the outset with $973,000 for the expense of survey, and $1,130,000 for appropriations to extinguish Indian titles. The receipts are thus cut down over two millions of dollars at once. But this is but the beginning of the account, and by far *the smallest item in it.*

The military force of the United States, with the exception of the few troops necessary for the garrison of eastern fortifications, is employed almost exclusively in the defence of these public lands from the Indians. Should this territory or the receipts from its sale be divided among the States, *they* would have to assume its defence, or what, in a financial point of view, is precisely the same thing, Congress would do it with funds derived from the taxation of the citizens of the States. In the latter case the cost would be exactly as it is now; in the former, to say nothing of the unconstitutionality of the measure, the expense would be much greater, because the cost of the standing army which Congress must always maintain as a nuclus for times of war, would have to be added the cost of a regular force from every State in the Union. We will suppose, then, that the cheapest method of defence were adopted, and that United States troops should still defend, and United States officers still dispose of the lands; then let us see the cost.

We begin by striking out from the list of army estimates every item of expense not directly chargeable to the troops employed in the guardianship of the public lands. To this end we omit all account of the expenses of fortifications, pensions, hospitals, military roads, recruiting, &c., and confine ourselves simply to the items of the quartermaster's and paymaster's budget. The expenditure of the former for the fiscal year under examination amounted to six millions nine hundred and seventy-six thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine dollars ($6,976, 789) The expenditure of the latter, exclusive of payments of the Military Academy, which we strike out as not justly chargeable in this extimate, was three millions eight hundred and seventy-eight thousand five hundred and ninety-eight dollars ($3,878,598,)—making a total on account of war expenditure of ten millions eight hundred and fifty-five thousand three hundred and eighty-seven dollars, ($10,855,387.) What proportion of this sum is exclusively chargeable to the public lands it is of course, impossible to say, but when we reflect that during the year under examination, we have had no foreign war, and with the exception of a few paltry garrisons no need for a single U. S. soldier in all the States of this confederacy, it surely will not be an over estimate, but to place the question beyond the chance of cavil we put the proportion as above mentioned. The sum thus resulting would amount to seven millions two hundred and thirty-six thousand nine hundred and twenty-four dollars, (7,236,924.)

Let us go back now and make up our books. Expenditure—

Cost of survey	$ 973,000
Indian title	1,130,000
Cost of defence	7,236.924
Total	9,339,924
Receipts—	
Sales of lands	8,821,414
Annual loss	518,510

This is the sum that would remain to be distributed annually among the States—*a deficit of over half a million.*

Such is the simple dollar and cent argument applicable to the case. We say nothing of the demoralization which must follow the squandering of the federal revenue under the specious name of distribution—nothing of the increase of duties, for, be it remembered that if the public lands do not support, or help to support the army, *the money must come from the customs*—nothing of the injustice which would certainly follow to some interests of the land in consequence of such increase of duties—nothing of the dangerous political results of establishing such a relation as beggar and alms-giver between the States and Congress. Of all these grave considerations, we have nothing to say, but we appeal confidently to the financial issue involved, and are content to rest the issue there. It is argument by which the common sense of the nation will decide the question now as it did in days gone by.

Further Indian Troubles.

ST. LOUIS, April 22.—The officers of the steamer Minnehaha, from Upper Missouri, report a great excitement at Plattsmouth, Nebraska, in consequence of the Pawnee Indians being driven in by a number of settlers of Salt Creek. A fight occurred, resulting in the killing of several Indians and one white man and the capturing of thirteen Indians. General Thayer, of Omaha City, has raised a party of volunteers to protect the settlers.

From the Rural New Yorker, April 4.

Sunflower Culture as a Preventive of the Ague and Fever.

BY LIEUT. M. F. MAURY.

Every experiment that has for its object the solution of any question in the affairs of man is instructive. Whether the experiment be successful or not, it is not the less instructive, for experience is acquired by the failure as well as by the success of experiments. Every tiller of the earth, from Adam down to the whistling plow-boy that saw his first furrow not longer ago than last autumn, has been given more or less to the making of experiments. A farmer "tries" this crop, or that plan, and his experiments are the ground-work of the experience which gives intelligent direction to his husbandry.

None of the great industrial pursuits is more fruitful of experiments than that of agriculture; and if all the experiments that have been and now are making in this branch of industry had been systematically conducted, and if proper accounts of them had all been collected and published, what a valuable and instructive work should we have had! Take the Chinese sugar-cane as an example for illustration. How many thousand of farmers intend to make a "trial" of it this year?—and among this great number, how many, think you, will give for the benefit of agriculture any account of their experiment and its results? Perhaps a dozen or two. The aggregate experience of all the rest will be lost to the agricultural community—and yet, if collected and embodied together, it would be of incalculable value.

I have been led into this train of remarks in consequence of an experiment that I made last year with the cultivation of sunflowers as a preventive or protection against ague and fever, and if you will publish an account of this experiment, with an explanation of what was sought to be accomplished by it, and the results obtained, perhaps some of your many thousand readers will join and assist in carrying it out, for with such assistance a sanitary question of great importance may be satisfactorily settled, one way or the other, in a little while.

The dwelling of the Superintendent is adjoining the Observatory, which is situated on a hill on the left bank of the Potomac, in lat. 38 deg, 39 min., 53 sec. It is 94 feet above the low water of ebb tide, and about 400 yards from the river. The grounds pertaining to it contain about 17 acres, inclosed by a brick wall on the east, south and west sides, with a picket fence on the north. The south wall runs along nearly parallel with the river, and so does the west. The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, fringed by a single row of sycamores, of some twenty years' growth, separates the wall from the river. In fact the river, with its marshes at the foot of the hill, encircles the grounds of the Observatory half way round, viz: from S. E. by way of S. to N. W. Thus, you perceive, we are in a sort of a bend in the river. Most of the marshes are just "a wash" at low water, parts of them are bare when the tide is out, and all of them, in the early summer, are covered with a rank growth of grass and weeds, which begin to decay in August. This is the commencement, too, of the sickly season, and a few minutes' walk about the grounds of the Observatory after sunset has been found sufficient to bring on upon strangers an attack of ague and fever. The place is so unhealthy that my family are compelled to desert it for four or five months every year. Last year they broke up early in May, and did not return till November.

Now, I am not going into a dissertation concerning malaria or miasm, for, be the seeds of the pestilence what they may, those of these intermittents are supposed to be due in a great measure to the marshes of the Potomac. The decay of the vegetable matter upon them infects the air with impurities of some kind, which predispose to chills and fevers such is the popular belief, at any rate.

This brings me to the history of the sunflower experiment. A process of reasoning like the following led me to try it.

If it be the decay of the vegetable matter on the marshes that produces the sickness on the hill, then the sickness must be owing to the deleterious effects of some gas, miasm or effluvium, that is set free during the decomposition; and if so, the poisonous matter, or the basis of it, whatever it be, must have been elaborated during the growth of the weeds, and set free in their decay. Now, if this reasoning be good, why might we not, by planting other vegetable matter between us and the marshes, and by bringing it, into vigorous growth just about the time that that of the marshes begins to decay, bring fresh forces of the vegetable kingdom again to play upon this poisonous matter, and elaborate it again into vegetable tissue, and so purify the air?

This reasoning appeared plausible enough to justify the trouble and expense of experiment, and I was encouraged to expect more or less success from it, in the circumstance that everybody said, "plant trees between you and the marshes—they will keep off the chils." But as to the trees, it so happens that at the very time when the decomposition on the marshes is going on most rapidly, the trees, for the most part, have stopped their growth to prepare for the winter, and though trees might do some good, yet a rank growth of something got up for the occasion might do more. Hops climb high; they are good absorbents, and of a rank growth, but there were objections to hops on account of stakes, poles, &c.—I recollected that I had often seen sun-flowers growing about the cabins in the West, and had heard, in explanation, that it was "healthy" to have them.—This was so much more in favor of making the experiment with sun-flowers.

An acre of sun-flowers will absorb during their growth many thousand gallons of water more than are supplied by the rains. They are great absorbents. They are of easy cultivation, are more rank than hops—they require no poles, and the seed are very valuable. I paid $8 a bushel for them. This plant, therefore, apparently offered to fulfil all the conditions required to satisfy the problem; for if the supposition that the ague and fever poison be imparted to the atmosphere by the decaying vegetable matter in the marshes, and if this poison were set free during the process of decay, why should not the sunflowers in their rank growth absorb it, and again elaborate it into vegetable matter, and so fix it, at least for a while, and until cold weather? I consulted upon this subject with one of the most useful men this country ever produced—the late A. J. Downing, of Newburg—and he thought the idea a good one.

Finally, I resolved to make the experiment, at the risk of spoiling the looks of a beautiful lawn. Accordingly, in the fall of 1855, the gardener trenched up to the depth of two and a half feet a belt about forty five feet broad around the Observatory on the marshy side, and from 150 to 200 yards from the buildings. The conditions of the theory I was about to try required rich ground, tall sunflowers and a rank growth. Accordingly, after being well manured from the stable yard, the ground was properly prepared and planted in sunflowers last spring. They grew finely; the sickly season was expected with more than the usual anxiety. Finally, it set in, and there was shaking at the President's House and other places as usual, but for the first time since the Observatory was built the watchmen about it weathered the summer clear of chills and fevers. These men, being most exposed to the night air, suffer most, and heretofore two or three relays of them would be attacked during the season; for as one falls sick another is employed in his place, who, in turn, being attacked, would in like manner give way to a fresh hand. And, last year, attacks of auge and fever were more than usually prevalent in the neighboring parts of the city.

Here is encouragement, not discovery or proof—but it is worth further trial, at any rate. Accordingly the gardener is making ready to try the experiment again this year, but with variations. The seeds are not to be planted quite as in the first instance; and, in the next place, there are to be two plantings, so that the last crop may be caught by the frost while yet the plants are flowering, and, therefore, in full and vigorous growth during the season of active decay in the marshes.

Suppose the fact should be established that a hedge of sunflowers between the dwellings of farmers and the ponds or marshes and standing pools, would generally keep ague and fever away, the discovery that such a simple contrivance would constitute an impassable barrier to "the pestilence that walketh in darkness" would be an achievement worth recording.

"The destruction that wasteth at noonday" may form the subject of another communication, if you can find room for it. Indeed, other remarks upon the subject in hand are suggesting themselves, but with your leave, I will reserve them for the next number of the Rural. In the meantime, I hope that all who can, but especially those who live in noted ague and fever districts, will prepare to try the sunflowers experiment this summer.

The readers of the Rural are mostly in the region of westerly winds, and that the results of each experiment should throw light upon the rest, it is desirable to know, approximately at least, in each case, the situation of the dwelling, its distance from and height above the supposed region of miasma, as well as its distance from the hedge of sunflowers, their height, &c. We know that one of the offices of the vegetable kingdom is to preserve the purity of the atmosphere; and that during their growth many plants take up from the air and fix for awhile various noxious vapors. In the Southern country it is common to see among the negro quarters sunflowers growing about the pig-sty; and the negro, if asked why he plants them in such a place, will reply, "He make it healthy, Massa."

The Rural boasts of the intelligence of its patrons, their cleverness and love of the useful, and why should not those of them who are in a condition to do so, try this experiment, and so let each have the benefit of all the rest to guide us next year.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have been conversing with Mr. Watt, the gardener, upon the subject. He informs me that many years ago similar experiments were made in France with like success. Accounts of them have been published in the Cultivator. With these facts and other circumstances to which I shall allude in my next, still further to inspire faith in the proposed preventive, I hope all of your "ague and fever" readers will be encouraged to try this simple sunflower experiment. Those who live upon the prairies, in the ague and fever districts of Illinois and other Western States, would do well to surround their dwellings with the plants, having the thickest part of the hedge on the west side.

INVENTIONS OF THE CHINESE.—It has been considered that the Chinese were not an inventive people; and yet this would appear to be a mistake. The art of printing was known in China nine hundred years before any knowledge of it prevailed in England.—Printing was first introduced into Europe early in the fifteenth century. The Chinese printers were generally itinerants. They next discovered the magnetic needle; this took place in the traditionary period, when the Yellow Emperor, having missed his way, a little carriage was built, on the top of which was a figure, which always pointed to the north, and thus the route was discovered. The effects of the loadstone were also mentioned in their dictionary.—We were also probably indebted to the Chinese for the mariner's compass; for it had been long known to them before it was to us. Gunpowder was invented many centuries before it was known in England, and it is a singular fact that the component parts were nearly the same as the European mixture.

Later from Europe.

NEW YORK, April 22.—The steamer Glasgow, from Glasgow, with Liverpool dates of the evening of the 8th, arrived here this afternoon. Her advices are unimportantant, being but a few hours later than the Fulton and the City of Washington.

The estimated sales of cotton on Wednesday amounted to 6,000 bales, of which speculators took 1,000. The market closed steady.

Consols closed very heavy at 92⅜ a 92½. Strong fears were entertained that there would be another advance of bank rates.

A telegraphic despatch from Paris says that the Emperor's coronation will take place on the 4th of May.

Arrival of the America.—Three Days Later from Europe.

HALIFAX, April 24.—The Cunard steamer America, from Liverpool on the 11th, arrived here last night, and will be due at Boston on Saturday. She brings three days later intelligence from Europe.

The North American arrived out on the 10th instant. The America passed the steamship Africa on the 12th., and a screw-steamer, supposed to be the Alps, on the 13th.

ENGLAND.—The parliamentary elections were nearly over. The ministerial net gain so far is 65.—Sidney Herbert is spoken of for Minister of War, and Evelyn Dennison is the ministerial candidate for Speaker.

The English government furnishes three steamships to assist in laying the Atlantic telegraph cable. The cable itself will be completed in June and laid in July.

FRANCE.—The rumored attempts to assassinate the Emperor are unfounded, but several arrests have been made in Paris and the departments of persons connected with the secret societies.

SPAIN.—A Madrid letter says that active communications are taking place between Spain and France and England on the subject of the Spanish Mexican difficulty. The Spanish government hopes to obtain the moral support of these powers, and, in case the question goes beyond a war with Mexico, their material aid also.

DENMARK.—The Danish cabinet have tendered their resignations; the cause being local politics.

A Berlin paper denies that delay has been granted to Denmark by Austria and Prussia for the settlement of the Halstein question through French influence; and also confirms the statement that Russia has disagreed to the claims of Denmark being referred to the arbitration of the European powers. The Danish Diet unanimously approve of the abolition of the Sound dues, and the treaty concluded with the foreign powers.

AUSTRIA.—An Austrian circular states, respecting the Austro-Sardinian rupture, that should the mediation of England and France prove unsuccessful, Austria will seek measures for her own protection; but the authenticity of the circular is doubted.

ITALY.—The Austrian ambassador at Naples repeats the statement that Naples repeats the statement that Naples is more and more disposed to make advances toward the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with the western powers.

RUSSIA.—A letter from St. Petersburgh says that the operations of raising the sunken vessels at Sebastopol have commenced. Sixteen have already been recovered, including the steamer Chersonese.—Four raised vessels are afloat, and in active employment. The Chersonese is undergoing repairs at Nicolaieff.

PERSIA.—The Ottoman ambassador at Teheran had required the execution of the treaty of delimination and the restitution of seven towns to Turkey.

The Porte is inclined to consent to a union of the principalities on condition that its suzerainty be respected and that the united provinces continue to pay annual tribute.

[LATEST.]

BUSHIRE, Feb. 25.—Gen. Outram had planned an expedition for the capture of Mehammerah on the Karoon. The embarkation of the troops had commenced and an attack was expected on the 20th of March. The Persian army was collecting at Burajoor.

HALIFAX.—Parliament has passed a bill giving the exclusive right to the Atlantic Telegraph Company to land their cable on the shores of that province.

Later from Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, April 22.—Later dates from Mexico, received at this city, state that a revolutionary movement, under the auspices of the Clergy and Santa Anna has been discovered in the city of Mexico.—The leaders have been arrested.

The British Charge has delivered his ultimatum to the Mexican government, and given nine days for an answer.

A MARRYING MAN.—The Boston Times of Thursday says:

The Rev. Sebastian Streeter, whose 74th birth-day occurs this day, which is also the 50th anniversary of his wedding day, asserts that the whole number of marriages solemnized by him in Boston, is *four thousand one hundred and sixty nine!* May the Lord forgive him for the misery he has caused.

The Prospect in Pennsylvania.

The democracy of Pennsylvania evince no disposition to repose upon their gloriously-won laurels of last year. They have entered on the pending State campaign with a zeal, a confidence, and an enthusiasm which cannot fail, we think, of being attended with the most triumphant results. The Lancaster Intelligencer says; "We anticipate for General Packer, our noble standard-bearer, an easy and triumphant victory over his competitor. All the sophistry and special pleading of Wilmot, whether on or off the stump, will avail him but little when he comes to encounter the giant blows of his sturday democratic antagonist. The doom of black republicanism is already sealed; the handwriting is upon the wall; and the second Tuesday of October next will effectually and forever settle its condemnation at the ballot-box.

"Pennsylvania *has been*, is, and WILL CONTINUE TO BE, true to the CONSTITUTION and the UNION."

SLAVE STOLEN.—On the return of the Hon. A. G. Brown through Cincinnati, he had the misfortune to have stolen from him a favorite slave girl. After the depredations of the "forty thieves" in Congress, what better manners are to be expected of the Black Republican mobs whom they represent.